In the Claims:

Applicants *provisionally* elect method claims 5, 6 and 11 to 13 (Group I) for further prosecution in the above-identified U.S. Patent Application.

Also please amend the claims as follows:

Claims 1 to 4 (previously canceled).

5(currently amended). A method for dyeing keratinic fibers, in ~~for~~ which the keratinic fibers initially are pretreated with an aqueous preparation, said aqueous preparation containing at least one physiologically compatible salt of an organic or inorganic acid, and subsequently the keratinic fibers are dyed with a dyeing agent containing at least one anionic, direct dye.

6(currently amended). The method of claim 5, wherein the keratinic fibers are hair and the dyeing agent is allowed to act on the hair from 5 to 60 minutes at a temperature of 20 to 50°C, depending upon ~~the~~ desired color intensity ~~desired~~, and the hair is then rinsed with water, optionally washed with a shampoo and dried.

7(original). A multi-component kit for dyeing keratinic fibers, wherein the kit contains a first component containing at least one physiologically compatible salt and a second component containing at least one anionic, direct dye.

Claims 8 to 9 (previously canceled).

10(previously presented). The multi-component kit of claim 7, wherein the second component additionally contains at least one surface active compound selected from the group consisting of anionic, amphoteric and nonionic wetting agents and surfactants.

11(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting chlorides, bromides, sulfates, lactates, tartrates, citrates, malates, glycolates, glycerophosphates. pantothenates, phosphinates, glutamates, gluconates, phosphates, formates, sorbates, aspartates, orotates, oxalates, acetates, and mixtures thereof, and said at least one physiologically compatible salt includes at least one of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonium, aluminum and zinc.

12(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium pantothenate and mixtures thereof.

13(previously presented). The method of claim 5 or 6, wherein said aqueous preparation contains from 0.01 to 10 percent by weight of said at least one

physiologically compatible salt.

14(previously presented). The multi-component kit of claim 7, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting chlorides, bromides, sulfates, lactates, tartrates, citrates, malates, glycolates, glycerophosphates. pantothenates, phosphinates, glutamates, gluconates, phosphates, formates, sorbates, aspartates, orotates, oxalates, acetates and mixtures thereof, and said at least one physiologically compatible salt includes at least one of sodium, potassium, magnesium, calcium, ammonia, aluminum and zinc.

15(previously presented). The multi-component kit of claim 7, wherein said at least one physiologically compatible salt is selected from the group consisting of sodium chloride, potassium chloride, magnesium chloride, calcium chloride, calcium pantothenate and mixtures thereof.